

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Essex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of First Essex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.9% (3,516) reside in the First Essex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (668) of First Essex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 70.1% of admissions from the First Essex Senatorial District were male and 29.9% were female.
- Over 58.5% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 74.3% of admissions were white non-Latino, 9.8% were black non-Latino, 11.1% were Latino, 1.2% were Asians, and 3.7% were other racial categories.
- 67.1% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.4% were married, and 13.7% reported not to be married now.
- 33.1% of admissions had less than high school education, 46.8% completed high school, and 20.0% had more than high school education.
- 25.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 18.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.8% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

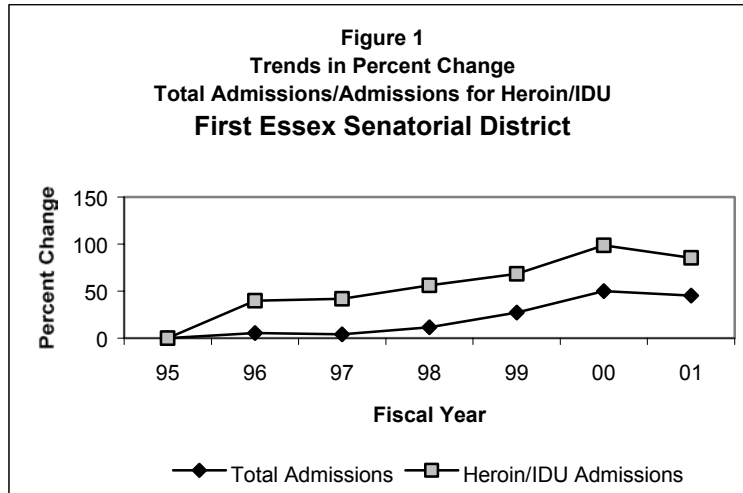
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the First Essex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
First Essex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,422	1,785	657	978	798	817	466
FY '96	2,553	1,829	738	985	808	1,072	720
FY '97	2,519	1,831	737	796	564	1,060	760
FY '98	2,704	1,884	784	792	442	1,197	804
FY '99	3,078	2,222	937	920	463	1,263	898
FY '00	3,635	2,621	1,098	982	449	1,468	1,081
FY '01	3,516	2,314	915	811	328	1,402	975

- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, residents of First Essex Senatorial District reported a steady decrease in cocaine and crack use, while alcohol, marijuana, and heroin use increased by 30%, 39%, and 72%, respectively.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the First Essex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 45% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 85%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Essex Senatorial District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	36.9%	35.9%	8.5%	5.6%	2.6%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While marijuana and cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was higher than the State average, alcohol and crack were lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000